

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for administering the health of a personal computer comprising:  
a provider subsystem for providing services relating to personal computer health  
status, wherein the services include acquiring health status information;  
5 a health engine subsystem for processing the health status information acquired  
by the provider subsystem and rendering health status notifications; and  
a client user interface subsystem for reporting personal computer health status to a  
user in accordance with the health status notifications.
- 10 2. The system of claim 1 further comprising a provider interface for passing  
an instruction for corrective action from the health engine subsystem to a consumer of  
corrective actions.
3. The system of claim 2 wherein the consumer of corrective actions is a  
15 provider service within the provider subsystem.
4. The system of claim 2 wherein the health engine subsystem comprises  
task execution coordination logic for enforcing mutual exclusion rules regarding  
execution of tasks by the consumer of corrective actions.
- 20 5. The system of claim 2 wherein the health engine subsystem comprises  
rules logic for specifying the instruction for corrective action.
6. The system of claim 5 wherein the health engine subsystem specifies the  
25 instruction for corrective action automatically based upon the rules logic.
7. The system of claim 5 wherein the rules logic specifies an action based  
upon health status information originating from multiple providers within the provider  
subsystem.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein the health engine subsystem comprises a client interface for receiving a request for corrective action from the client user interface subsystem.

5 9. The system of claim 1 wherein the health engine subsystem comprises a health status information store for maintaining records corresponding to the health status information.

10 10. The system of claim 1 wherein the provider subsystem includes a security health status provider module.

11. The system of claim 1 wherein the provider subsystem includes a privacy health status provider module.

15 12. The system of claim 1 wherein the provider subsystem includes a backup health status provider module.

20 13. The system of claim 1 wherein the provider subsystem includes a performance provider module.

14. The system of claim 1 wherein the client user interface subsystem supports a user interface providing a health status score and a user selectable corrective action returned to the health engine subsystem.

25 15. The system of claim 1 wherein the health engine subsystem comprises an interface supporting an extensible set of providers within the provider subsystem.

16. A method for administering the health of a personal computer comprising the steps of:

30 providing, by a provider subsystem, services relating to personal computer health status, wherein the services include acquiring health status information;

processing, by a health engine subsystem, the health status information acquired by the provider subsystem and rendering health status notifications; and

reporting, by a client user interface subsystem, personal computer health status to a user in accordance with the health status notifications.

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17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of:  
passing, by a provider interface, an instruction for corrective action from the health engine subsystem to a consumer of corrective actions.

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18. The method of claim 17 wherein the consumer of corrective actions is a provider service within the provider subsystem.

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19. The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of:  
enforcing, by task execution coordination logic, mutual exclusion rules regarding execution of tasks by the consumer of corrective actions.

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20. The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of:  
specifying, by rules logic, the instruction for corrective action.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the specifying step is performed automatically based upon the rules logic.

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22. The method of claim 20 wherein the specifying step is performed based upon health status information originating from multiple providers within the provider subsystem.

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23. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of:  
receiving, by a client interface of the health engine subsystem, a request for corrective action from the client user interface subsystem.

24. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of:

maintaining, by a health status information store of the health engine subsystem, records corresponding to the health status information.

25. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of:  
5 providing, by a user interface of the client user interface subsystem, a health status score and a user selectable corrective action returned to the health engine subsystem.

26. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of:  
10 supporting, by an interface of the health engine subsystem, an extensible set of providers within the provider subsystem.

27. A computer-readable medium including computer-executable instructions for administering the health of a personal computer, the computer-executable instructions  
15 facilitating performing the steps of:  
providing, by a provider subsystem, services relating to personal computer health status, wherein the services include acquiring health status information;  
processing, by a health engine subsystem, the health status information acquired by the provider subsystem and rendering health status notifications; and  
20 reporting, by a client user interface subsystem, personal computer health status to a user in accordance with the health status notifications.

28. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:  
25 passing, by a provider interface, an instruction for corrective action from the health engine subsystem to a consumer of corrective actions.

29. The computer-readable medium of claim 28 wherein the consumer of corrective actions is a provider service within the provider subsystem.

30. The computer-readable medium of claim 28 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:

enforcing, by task execution coordination logic, mutual exclusion rules regarding execution of tasks by the consumer of corrective actions.

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31. The computer-readable medium of claim 28 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:

specifying, by rules logic, the instruction for corrective action.

10 32. The computer-readable medium of claim 31 wherein the specifying step is performed automatically based upon the rules logic.

33. The computer-readable medium of claim 31 wherein the specifying step is performed based upon health status information originating from multiple providers  
15 within the provider subsystem.

34. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:  
receiving, by a client interface of the health engine subsystem, a request for  
20 corrective action from the client user interface subsystem.

35. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:  
maintaining, by a health status information store of the health engine subsystem,  
25 records corresponding to the health status information.

36. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:  
providing, by a user interface of the client user interface subsystem, a health  
30 status score and a user selectable corrective action returned to the health engine subsystem.

37. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:

5 supporting, by an interface of the health engine subsystem, an extensible set of providers within the provider subsystem.

38. A system for administering the health of a personal computer comprising:  
means for providing, by a provider subsystem, services relating to personal  
computer health status, wherein the services include acquiring health status information;

10 means for processing, by a health engine subsystem, the health status information acquired by the provider subsystem and rendering health status notifications; and

means for reporting, by a client user interface subsystem, personal computer health status to a user in accordance with the health status notifications.

15 39. The system of claim 38 further comprising:

means for passing, by a provider interface, an instruction for corrective action from the health engine subsystem to a consumer of corrective actions.

20 40. The system of claim 39 wherein the consumer of corrective actions is a provider service within the provider subsystem.

41. The system of claim 39 further comprising:

means for enforcing mutual exclusion rules regarding execution of tasks by the consumer of corrective actions.

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42. The system of claim 38 further comprising:

means for receiving a request for corrective action from the client user interface subsystem.

30 43. The system of claim 38 further comprising:

means for maintaining records corresponding to the health status information.

44. The system of claim 38 further comprising:  
means for providing a health status score and a user selectable corrective action  
returned to the health engine subsystem.